

BY ZAHID SARDAR

# Solar Supporter

A house by Kuth/Ranieri in San Francisco's fog belt gathers rays

It wasn't particularly sunny the day we visited Carol and Mark Lerdal's remodeled home in the Richmond District. It rarely is in that part of town, but super-sensitive photovoltaic panels installed on the flat roof of the four-story house quietly gather solar energy every day.

Lerdal, a partner in Kenetech, a Livermore wind power company, is keenly interested in alternative energy solutions. "On foggy days we get 70 percent of the energy we gather on a sunny day. People don't realize that you can get sunburned even on overcast days," he says.

"When the sun's out, we don't use any energy from the grid," says Carol.

Besides the obvious environmental benefits of such clean, abundant power, Lerdal sees another incentive: Of the \$90,000 the panels cost, nearly \$40,000 was returned to him through tax rebates.

Architects Byron Kuth and Liz Ranieri, who transformed the Lerdals' formerly awkward 1913 Edwardian into this modern technological wonder, were also careful to grab every bit of light they could. They pierced the redesigned front and rear facades with extra windows and added skylights of



Facing page: Vista-view storefront windows define the rear facade; deck off the children's rooms and dining and playroom floors below it all have backyard views. Above: A view of the Presidio from the master bedroom. Below: In the living room, Carol Lerdal displays a vinyl-pillows mural by Carlos Mollura and a mud bear by Jeff Koons.





Facing page: The dining room, now sandwiched between the living space up front and the kitchen and breakfast room in back, is partitioned off by wood and translucent glass to bring in the maximum amount of light during the day.

This page: The open-plan kitchen allows room for the entire family. A white granite-clad island has a countertop stove. Dog vase by Jeff Koons; white oval Fix table by Bellato; Ycami Dolly side chairs are from the Magazine. Standard-issue aluminum stair grating visible on the right, is used to form railings for the back stairs that lead down to the new playroom.



